

# Nursing phaseout draws criticism

by Nancy Fox  
and Kelly Smith

The recent decision to phase out Clarke's nursing program has sparked criticism from Nursing Department Chair Joyce Roberson and nursing students. Despite the fact that Roberson feels the nursing department advisory committee should have been consulted, Clarke President Catherine Dunn said, "There are two procedures in place at Clarke that determine the way in which a program is initiated or phased out."

"First, the board of trustees, through the academic affairs committee and the ad-

ministration of the college, can initiate or withdraw a program. The board initiated the nursing program 10 years ago; therefore, the decision making process for the department's elimination remained in the same channels.

"The second way a program can be initiated or terminated is by way of a department chair to the academic dean, through the educational policy committee, to the board."

Clarke's board of trustees decided to phase out the nursing program over the next two years because of low enrollment in the program.

Dunn said that when the program was begun 10 years ago the board expected a maximum of 40 new students and a minimum of 20 new students per year. "Originally the board wanted 60 students per year," Dunn said. "We figured the program could function if it received 20, but those expectations were just never met."

Roberson says she never knew about a minimum enrollment. "If we were allowed time to recruit, and if the program were better marketed, we could have 50 majors by January."

Despite Roberson's claim, Dunn said she met with her, the academic dean and

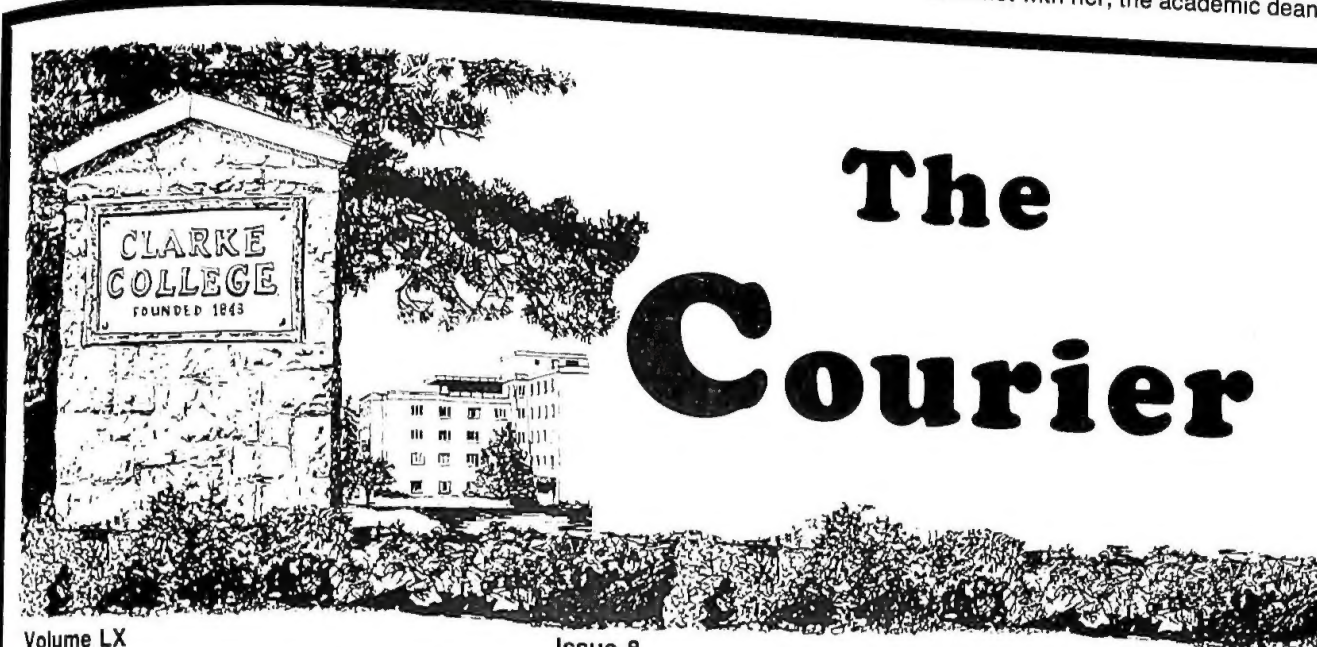
the vice president for academic affairs five weeks ago to discuss the problem of low enrollment and what could be done about it. "The nursing department knew enrollment was a concern when we received national accreditation," said Dunn. "At that time some of the nursing faculty were interested in tenure. They were told then that the department needed to attain stability before tenure could be granted."

Dunn said that the entire health care field is in a state of turmoil. "Ten years ago interest in nursing was at a peak nationally. Since then it has been on a steady decline. Both Northwestern University and Loyola of Chicago have dropped their programs. Up until this year Loyola had an average of 177 nursing majors per year; now they are down to 31."

Roberson feels the board did not try to help the program before making its deci-

**"You just can't keep a program with five full-time faculty members and no students..."**

—S. Catherine Dunn



## Many students seek holiday shelter

by John Siegworth

On-campus students at Clarke who can't go home during Thanksgiving or Christmas vacations will have to find somewhere else to stay.

For Thanksgiving, the residence halls will be closed Wednesday Nov. 23 through Sunday, Nov. 27. For the semester break, the halls will close Dec. 16 and reopen Jan. 15.

Closing the dorms during breaks is "nothing new," according to Maggie Dittburner, director of residence life, who cited the resident halls contract. "It's just finally being enforced," she said.

The contract states: "Residence halls are closed during official college vacations and between fall and spring semester. These periods are not included in this contract and the right to use residence halls space for other purposes during these periods is reserved by the college."

Dittburner said maintenance would use the time during the breaks to do repairs in the dorms. She also cited heating, staff expenses and security as reasons to close the dorms.

"When students go home for a break, we promise a secure environment" in their rooms, Dittburner said. She said having a few people roaming the halls during a break would create the need for a staff of resident assistants, and "I'm not going to make my staff work during the holidays."

Sophomore Chris Muller-Bergh, a music student from Germany, was "very angry" about the dorm closings. "In Germany, the dorms are open all the time," he said.

Clarke's foreign students aren't the only ones affected by the policy.

"I have no parents, no relative, no money and no job," said freshman Todd Steege, explaining that his uncle and grandmother live in Holland.

Steege is originally from Dubuque but was in the Army before coming to Clarke and now serves in the Army National Guard.

Kerry McCarthy, a freshman from Florida, criticized the Thanksgiving dorm closing. "I just think it's a hassle," she said. "It's only a few days."

"I don't think it's fair to the students at all," said Alston Thomas, a student from the Virgin Islands. "You pay so much for possession that a break shouldn't interrupt the possession," he said.

Thomas said foreign students tend to be nervous in unfamiliar areas such as Dubu-

que. "During a break, you're supposed to be having fun," he said. "You shouldn't have to spend it worrying about where you're going to stay."

Muller-Bergh has considered moving into an off-campus apartment, but is trying to get house-sitting jobs during the breaks.

Steege said he would like to get a cleaning job at Clarke in order to earn his keep. "Most college students have most of their possessions in the dorms," he said. "I have all of them except my bike, and that's outside."

McCarthy said her boyfriend's relatives, who live in Dubuque, may be able to find her a place to stay.

When asked if Mary Frances Hall might be used, Dittburner said, "I don't think so," explaining that the authority to open the hall would not be granted to her without "a high demand."

When questioned about rumors of the choir and men's basketball team being allowed in the dorms during the semester break, Dittburner said, "That is being discussed," but "hasn't been decided yet." She said the team and choir "are providing a service as ambassadors for the college," and the dorms would be staffed in such an event.

"We are looking for places for students to stay," Dittburner said.

## Chemistry students study toothpaste fluoride content

by Allston E. Thomas

Are you really getting the maximum fluoride protection that your toothpaste says you are? If so, which toothpaste best provides this dynamic protection?

In an analysis conducted Nov. 1, Clarke chemistry students determined the amount of fluoride in six different types of toothpaste. The toothpastes used in the analysis were: Colgate (regular), Aim Extra Protection, Crest, Arm & Hammer, Target Tartar Control and Walgreen's Fluoride.

The method used in the analysis to determine fluoride content is known as a "Direct Concentration Reading after Standardization." First, approximately 200mg of toothpaste was weighed and placed in a container containing a buffer. This buffer allowed all the fluoride in the toothpaste to be freed and easily read. To completely dissolve the toothpaste, the solution was heated for approximately two minutes, then diluted to approximately 100ml.

The toothpaste solution was then read by a voltmeter, which was previously standardized. From the reading, the chemists calculated the percentage of fluoride by dividing the weight into the reading, then multiplied this figure by 100.

In addition to fluoride content, the chemists analyzed the variation in cost between the products. It was clear that the products with the most fluoride cost relatively the same as the others.

From this, it would seem that individuals select their toothpaste based upon taste. As consumers, what are we actually paying for? An excerpt released by the Colgate Toothpaste Company stated that their toothpaste contains tartar killers, artificial sweeteners and many other ingredients that make the toothpaste "taste" good.

However, if you are more interested in fluoride content, then the "generic" toothpaste is the one to buy.

Another item to note from the toothpaste tube is whether it contains sodium monofluorophosphate (MFP) sodium fluoride or plain old fluoride, which is the best. By listing the fluoride content in the various forms, companies can beguile unknowing consumers into thinking that they are getting a toothpaste that contains all fluoride, when it is not so.

Consumers are urged to "read the label."

**Helpful hint:** To obtain the maximum amount of fluoride from your toothpaste, it is recommended that you not rinse your mouth after brushing.

sion to phase it out. She said Clarke would qualify for funds from the federal government and could allocate additional money from less needy areas.

"The program is not being closed because of money," Dunn emphasized. "It's being closed because of lack of interest. It was not a budgetary cut. The money is still in the system. You just can't keep a program with five full-time faculty members and no students alive."

Dunn said that despite the drop in enrollment, no faculty positions have been cut. "We wanted to keep a full complement of professionals in the program to ensure that quality would not erode. We even allotted other teaching tasks to the instructors. But you can't keep a program alive without students. This year we only had seven freshmen who indicated an interest in nursing. That's close to one student per faculty member."

Roberson says she has been "bombarded with phone calls from colleagues and people in the community" offering their support. "I don't think the board members realize what poor publicity this is for Clarke. They're not setting a very good example of a Christian community by distancing themselves from us in their decisions."

"The board's decision will affect more than just the nursing department," said Roberson. "Local health care agencies will lose a source of highly trained nurses at a time when they are needed most."

Despite Roberson's claim that "local agencies are outraged at the decision because of its poor timing," Dunn says she has spoken to local health care officials and was told that there is no immediate shortage.

"Health care officials said that they do not differentiate between an RN and a BSN when looking for help. They said they would even be looking for LPNs in the future. We must understand that we are not the sole feeder for these agencies."

Contrary to public rumor that the phase out is just one step toward eventual consolidation with Loras College, Dunn said that "no other program is being scrutinized for phase out. There is absolutely no way that we're going to consolidate. That decision was made last April, and it's final. Why would we have announced that the master plan for the physical plant had been approved, and that the sports complex would be under construction soon if we were going to consolidate?"

Roberson called the plan to phase out the program in two years "shortsighted." She anticipates problems for Clarke during those years. "Experienced instructors coming from a program that is nationally accredited cannot be expected to stick around and let their credentials stagnate in a dying program," said Roberson. "If they are offered better jobs, they'll probably take them. I have a lot of loyalty to the students, but this administration has given us no reason to stay."



# Opinion

## Student tells of two-time car tragedy

by Ann Steer

Some of you may remember a car accident that happened last year during homecoming weekend. In case you weren't around, I'll refresh your memory. A high school girl, who was traveling down Clarke Drive, swerved her car to avoid hitting an animal in the road. In doing so, she smashed into four cars; one of those cars belonged to me.

My 1976 Mercury Comet may have been a bomb, but that two-tone green body was my pride and joy. After many hours of waitressing, it was the first thing that I could say I owned. Well, after a long hassle with the insurance company, (as I'm sure many well know), the dispute was settled. "But wait," I said. "You mean to tell me I have to toot around in a car with a smashed-up end?"

My mother, in her ever-consoling voice, patted me on the shoulder and said, "As long as it runs, dear, as long as it runs."

Well, my Comet didn't run much longer, as I laid it to rest one day on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 61 near Maquoketa. It was a tragic death; its most inner parts fell out beneath my feet. In other words, the guts fell out right there on the road.

### 'U2 Rattle & Hum'

### Movie suitable for all ages

by Patrick Bradley

"U2 Rattle & Hum" is a movie about U2, a new wave band.

The band consists of Bono, lead singer; The Edge, lead guitar and keyboard; Adam Clayton, bass guitar; and Larry Mullen Jr., drummer.

Unlike most movies about musical bands, which show the concerts, and that's about it, "U2 Rattle & Hum" incorporated black and white film and behind-the-scenes interviews and activities. The use of black and white was a dangerous stunt in our modern era, but it turned out to be powerful, making U2 appear older. The interviews tended to break up the monotony of the concert-after-concert format used in other rock band movies.

One outstanding scene showed U2 singing one of their songs with a group of gospel singers. Every member of the group

Being the crazy fool that I am, I purchased a brand new 1988 Mercury Tracer the very next weekend. I now had car payments plus tuition payments. I must have experienced a momentary brain-snap when I signed my life away on that dotted line.

Nevertheless, I had a brand new car to take me through the rest of the school year worry-free. What bliss I experienced; no more strange noises, no more AM radio and no more wet feet from water shooting up through a hole in the floorboard.

My Mercury Tracer—how I adored it. It received a bath once a week, dirty or not. It also got preferential parking treatment.

I was really attached to the little beauty, my little "Tracy," as I used to call her. We'd sing together, go to faraway places together, we even learned things together when I listened to my taped lectures from class.

Well, you can imagine how heartbroken I was to learn that my little Tracy had been hit! "Not again. Not my new car," I thought. Yes, sad but true. A 17-year-old boy hit my Tracy while she was parked by the Kingston Inn in Galena last Friday night.

What are the odds of this happening—two Mercury products and two accidents, neither of which I was involved in? Luckily, no one was in my car at the time.

It's so sad to think that my Tracy has a bruise, a big bruise! Sadder yet is the condition of the boy who placed that bruise. He's in serious condition at the University of Iowa hospital. Not only was he legally drunk, but he had stolen the car he was

driving and attempting to outrun the police as well.

I pray for the child; I'm heartbroken over my car. But I know it could have been a lot worse. Luckily there is only one person in the hospital; there could have been many.

My message is: Don't drink and drive. It hurts people, and it hurts cars. My Tracy can be repaired—I'm not so sure about the boy.

## Letters to the editor...

### Admissions staff defends Clarke's efforts to market BSN nursing program

I read the article on phasing out the nursing program in the most recent issue of the *Courier* with dismay. The suggestion that the program was not marketed effectively is a slap in the face to all the people who have worked so hard over the years to do just that.

The nursing faculty have been undying in their efforts to market the program. They have participated in high school career days, attended health fairs, spoken to area high school students on a variety of health-related topics, invited area students and health professionals to participate in a number of educational programs on the Clarke campus, written letters, made phone calls, visited with prospective students, and established a Shadow Program in local hospitals which allows high school students to "experience" nursing first-hand, in addition to doing an outstanding job in the classroom.

The admissions staff has attended thousands of high school college days and made thousands of high school visits where our nursing brochure and nursing scholarship information is prominently displayed.... Letters have been sent to students interested in nursing whose names were purchased from ACT, SAT and NRCCUA describing the nursing program here at Clarke and the scholarship opportunities. The number of names available for purchase from those organizations has declined precipitously each year. In 1987, two renewable \$1500 scholarships in nursing were established for freshman students interested in nursing as a career. We had no takers. This year, although there are posters up in over 2500 high schools advertising these scholarships, we have only one application in nursing. ... We were proud of the nursing program and took every opportunity to talk about it.

Colleges with nursing programs much older than ours are experiencing dramatic drops in enrollment in these programs, and they are looking closely at what their next steps should be. They have tried the same marketing strategies that we have employed and are finding no more success. The nursing faculty and the admissions staff have made great efforts to build the program in the face of waning interest nationwide. There is reason only for feelings of pride in the efforts that were made

and great regret that these efforts could not fly in the face of marketplace realities

Bobbie J. Jones  
Director of Enrollment Management

### Displaced student angry

One of the things I found most attractive about Clarke was the friendliness of the staff. I truly felt that the Clarke staff would bend over backward to aid me with any problem I may encounter.

Evidently not. I don't want to bite the hand that feeds me, but how am I supposed to feel?

Over Thanksgiving and Christmas break, Clarke is shutting its doors completely. For a person like myself, without a family, this means going out, finding a place to live, moving out of Clarke and back in again.

Many other students share this predicament.

One would believe that a student who pays big money for tuition would be cared for by the college.

F. Siege  
Barr

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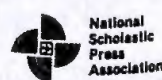
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The *Courier* is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and holds a First-Class Honor Rating from the National Scholastic Press Association.



## Procrastination: a common disease

by William Karberg

The 1988 fall semester is rapidly approaching its final weeks; therefore, it may be a favor to many students if this serves as a reminder of that end. We have received our midterm grades and hopefully are aware of what needs to be done to raise those grades to a respectable level by mid-December.

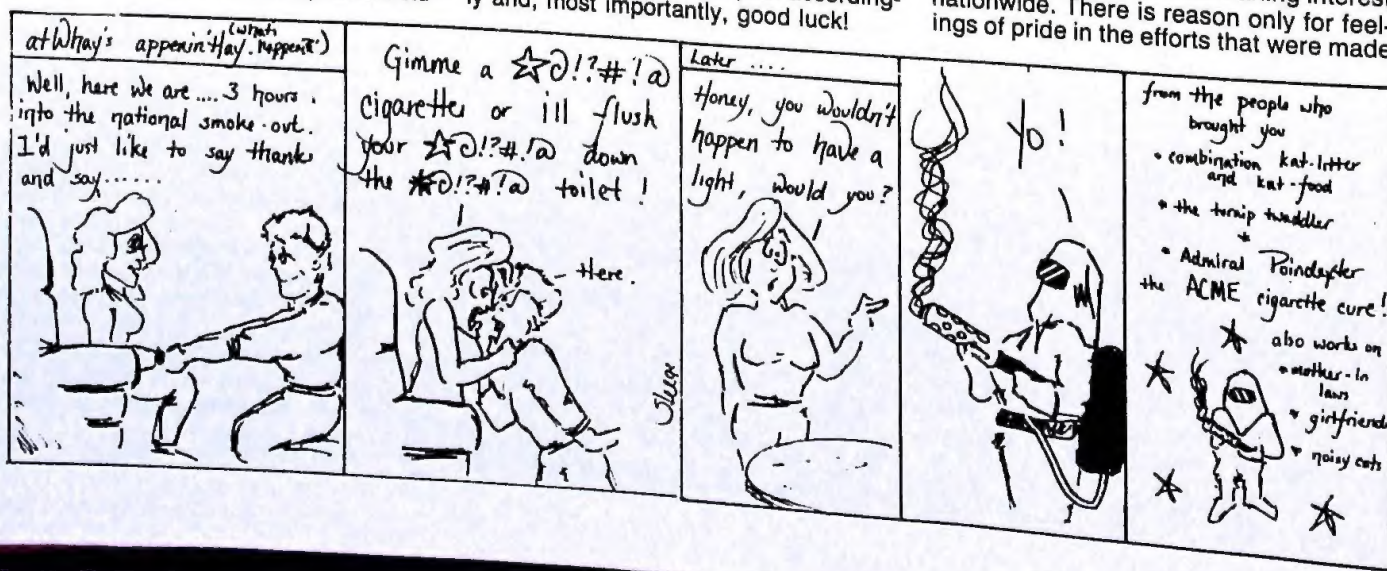
Procrastination is a common disease that affects a large portion of the student population this time of year. With luck and some planning, we can stop the disease before it becomes terminal. The first and probably the most important factor is self-motivation. Without it, the other methods and tools become useless.

Often, however, the reality of the situation is that time just sneaks up on the stu-

dent. One day they glance at the calendar and realize that there are only two weeks remaining.

If this is a familiar situation, one helpful hint is to organize your remaining chores and duties on a calendar. As simple as it seems, seeing it in black and white can often be an eye-opener. Besides, you bought that planner in August, you may as well use it for more than just doodling. The bad news is that it is probably necessary for many of us to reduce our party hours these next few weeks. This is the best way to avoid doing those 3-hour assignments one half hour before class.

There will be only three weeks left of this semester when we return from break. With this in mind, remember to plan accordingly and, most importantly, good luck!



**Announcements, Briefs & Comments**

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We can also arrange a student loan... the most from your education and pe... all your financial needs see the Finan... First National Bank of Dubuque. W...



# Feature

## Announcements, Briefs & Coming events

### Announcements

The Clarke drama department will present Israel Horowitz's "The Primary English Class" Nov. 17-20 at 8 p.m. in Terence Donaghoe Hall. An additional matinee performance will be given on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for non-Clarke students and senior citizens. Clarke students may attend the production free of charge. Please call 588-6329 for ticket reservations.

### a b c

Quigley Gallery is exhibiting contemporary prints from 24 University of Wisconsin printmakers now through Dec. 14. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

### a b c

Computer Center Director Kathy Decker has been elected to the governing board of the Association of Small Computer Users Education (ASCUE) for a two-year term. ASCUE is an organization of people who represent colleges and universities IBM 1130 Computing Systems.

### Briefs

Last Friday, Nov. 11, the entire Clarke

campus experienced a power outage for approximately 15 minutes. Steve Cue from maintenance said that Interstate Power Co. wasn't quite sure what caused the outage. Cue speculated that "often times an outage of this kind is caused by a squirrel who shorts out the transformers by touching two insulators simultaneously."

### Coming events

Help decorate the atrium for the coming holiday season Saturday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### a b c

As part of the High Tech-High Touch Lecture Series, Clarke will sponsor two lectures on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, in Terence Donaghoe Hall. The first lecture, titled "AIDS: Today's Epidemic," will be given at 4 p.m. by Michael T. Osterholm, Ph.D., M.P.H. Carol Tauer, Ph.D., will present "AIDS: Ethical Issues" at 7:30 p.m.

A question and answer period will follow each lecture. A reception will be given at 9 p.m. in the atrium following the second presentation.

### a b c

The Clarke Collegiate Singers will present Clarke's annual Christmas concert Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. in the atrium.

## Coens takes skills to community

by Meredith McCarthy

S. Xavier Coens, BVM, is again taking her directing skills to the community with a children's theater piece titled "The Unwicked Witch."

This will be Coens' fifth time directing at the Barn Community Theater but, as far as directing goes, it's old hat for the previous chair of Clarke's drama department.

"My special love has always been children's theater," said Coens. So, when I retired from teaching I just couldn't squash it."

Coens is the educational outreach person for the community theater in the city, and every year at Christmas time, they do a play for children. Last year she did "Winnie the Pooh." "I have found in my experience that children's shows are sort of second-rate, but The Community Theater thinks they should be done as well and with as big a budget as the rest of the season. It's as near a professional play as we can do."

Clarke alumna Mary Ann Kean is making the costumes for the production. The grandfather is played by the Rev. Richard Waller, an Episcopalian priest. His wife is one of the witches, and their son is the assistant director.

"This is one of the reasons I like working in the community. These people are involved because they want to be not because they have to be. So it makes for a close, familylike atmosphere."

In order to utilize a grant from the Iowa Arts Council, the group must do the play



S. Xavier Coens

for free. It also must be tied into a lesson plan that prepares the children for, in most cases, their first theatrical experience.

Xavier is writing the plan, which is an introduction to theater. Thus, the children walk in with some knowledge of what to expect and what an audience's responsibilities are.

"The Unwicked Witch," will be performed for every sixth-grader in the city. "I always like to wrap the play around the audience, so the witches will come through the audience and tweek them on the noses. Kids enjoy being included."

Production dates for public performances will be Dec. 3, 4 and Dec. 10, 11. "We would like to make it a family event," said Coens. "It's wonderful to see a whole family come in and enjoy it together."

## Dubuque organizations help needy over holidays

by LeeAnn Miller

As the holiday season approaches, many individuals get wrapped up in family and social events, so wrapped up that they often forget about the many needy people in the world.

Two groups in Dubuque help area needy: the Dubuque Rescue mission and Donna Ginter's Family and Friends.

The Dubuque Rescue mission helps people year-round. It is unique in that it is not government supported but community supported. Churches have joined to form an organization that supports and runs the mission called Dubuque Area Christian United (DACU). DACU also holds food drives to stock the shelves of the food pantry.

The mission provides sleeping space for transient men. It also serves approximately 65 meals a day.

Rich Garrett, a University of Dubuque student who was a volunteer at the mission, said that most people who get help are not ones whom you would think. "The people who get help are usually white males, contrary to stereotypical minority

women and their families of big cities. Men who receive help at the Dubuque mission range from retired to laid-off workers and from the young to the very old. Many white, middle-class families who have been hit by some hardship are also helped by the mission." Holiday seasons are the busiest time of the year.

Garrett said, "I learned a lot working down at the mission—something that books could never give me."

Donna Ginter's Family and Friends is noted for its contributions at Thanksgiving.

According to the Nov. 27, 1987, issue of the *Telegraph Herald*, Ginter, owner of the Silver Dollar Restaurant and Bar at 342 Main St., has served Thanksgiving dinner to the hungry and needy in Dubuque for the past 27 years. Last year's meal was served to 1,000 people. Ginter used donations from church groups, civic organizations, private citizens, money from raffles and her own pocket to cover the estimated \$2,200 it cost to serve the dinner.

Food contributions and other donations can be taken to the Dubuque Rescue Mission, 398 Main St.

## Student a double major in psych', Spanish

by LeeAnn Miller

Junior Jenny Harrington is working toward a double major in psychology and Spanish.

A graduate of Wahlert High School in Dubuque, Harrington has done a lot of work toward her degree in psychology while attending Clarke.

Through the Dubuque-Jackson County Mental Health system, she spent two semesters learning how to deal with abusive and potentially abusive families. The job was a very fulfilling experience.

Harrington said she took the job as a co-op through Clarke; thus she was able to gain job knowledge and school credit for her transcript.

"I feel I learned a priceless amount about people, society and the connections between poverty and family problems," Harrington said. "I also learned much about abuse being a cycle."

Harrington learned that "patience is imperative," while working with the mentally retarded at the Area Residential Care in Dubuque for four months. She also said she found the job to be more challenging than she expected. She stressed how important patience is when dealing with mental retardation and mental illness in general.

Harrington stated, "I discovered what beautiful people the mentally retarded are, and how much they really do contribute to our society."

Currently, Harrington is working at Emmaus Residential Homes with the mentally ill who are not in need of institutionalization, but who can't function independently.

### Clarke Courier

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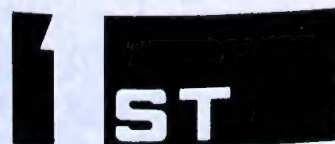


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...or intestines. "Some people  
...away," he said, "because they  
...to digest their food."

...Osterholm said, is that  
...is constantly mutating but takes  
...years to be noticed. "You're

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With maintenance personnel like Schlitter, and the new technology of the boiler-maintenance system, combating cold and dry weather this winter should be a breeze for Clarke College.

In 1964 McGovern returned to her native Dubuque, where she served as a classroom teacher and later principal of St.

McGovern said, "We strive to graciously meet the needs of the students by providing updated materials and professional assistance."

Because of these problems, Osterholm is "pessimistic" about the possibilities of developing a vaccine, much less a cure for AIDS. "Once you are infected, you're infected for life," he said.

## Ten Tree Party for Dec. 10

the time we're able to utter our first words, we're told that it's not the shopping for music or the cookies that make the event special, rather it is the giving. The Student Association has a great spirit of giving and is hosting the Tree Party, Saturday, Dec. 10, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the atrium. The Tree Party is hosted for all students, including disabled and handicapped children. The child receives candy-stuffed

free party is a 'thank you' to the community. It is something that Clarke can do for children that don't have as we do. The party allows us to give Christmas cheer."

children can partake in each class such as 'The Grinch,' 'Dennis Ahern. There will be cookies served, and a visit from Santa Claus. The schools are invited. Money for the schools is donated by contacting Rodd.

## Christmas Activities

**Year's Dance**  
Dec. 9, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Midnight Mass**  
Saturday, Dec. 10  
begins at 10 p.m.

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# TEST YOUR SKILL.



**QUITTING. IT COULD BE THE TEST OF YOUR LIFE.**

**Happy Thanksgiving  
from the  
Courier staff**

Apple 2c computer and monitor  
See or call S. Bertha Fox  
Room 203 EKH, 588-6528

**Christmas Activities**  
Friday, Dec 1

new Year's Dinner  
Friday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

**Dance**  
Mitten Tree  
Saturday, Dec 10, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Midnight Party**  
Saturday, Oct. 10, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Caroling

Mass  
y, Dec. 10  
begins at 1-10